

CLAIMS:

1. A method of electronically purchasing tickets which are required to be presented by a purchaser of the tickets in a printed form comprising:

using a portable trusted terminal which is in communication with a server of a provider of the tickets to select a ticket to be purchased;

verifying a purchase of a selected ticket and credibility of the purchaser with the server;

signing with the server a contract representing purchase of the ticket by the purchaser; and

saving in a memory information regarding the purchase from which the purchased ticket may be printed by an authorized device.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the purchaser communicates with one of either the provider of the tickets and an authorized printing device to print the ticket.

3. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein:

said authorized printing device is connected to said server by way of a network connection.

4. A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the network is the Internet.

5. A method of providing an electronic ticket to a user terminal comprising:

- requesting an electronic ticket from a user terminal through a communication network to a ticket service provider;
- selecting a ticket to be purchased by communication from the user terminal to the ticket service provider;
- authenticating and verifying a user of the user terminal by the ticket server provider;
- creating contract information associated with the selected ticket including verified information;
- recording at the server an electronic ticket including the verified information;
- and
- downloading the electronic ticket including the verified information by a request by the user to a valid output device in communication with the server.

6. A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein:

- the downloading includes printing.

7. A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein:

- the printing includes checking validity of the ticket.

8. A method in accordance with claim 5, comprising:

- contacting the output device with the user terminal to enable the downloading.

9. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein:

the downloading includes printing of the ticket.

10. A method in accordance with claim 5, comprising:

contacting the user terminal with the output device to transmit the ticket from the server to the output device.

11. A method in accordance with claim 5, comprising:

communicating between the output device and the user terminal with a low power RF connection.

12. A method in accordance with claim 11, comprising:

downloading the ticket to a selected valid output device.

13. A system which provides an electronic ticket to a user terminal

comprising:

a communication network in communication with the user terminal;

a ticket service provider including a ticket service provider server connected to the communication network which provides tickets to be purchased by a user of the user terminal;

authenticating means, associated with the ticket service provider server, which authenticates a user of the user terminal to purchase a ticket;

verifying means, associated with the ticket service provider server, which verifies contract information created in association with purchasing of the electronic ticket;

recording means for recording the verified contract information; and

a valid output device, in communication with the network, the user terminal and ticket service provider server, which receives a downloaded verified ticket.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein said output device is a printer.

15. A system according to claim 14, wherein said printer and said user terminal include low power radio link transmitters and receivers.

16. A system according to claim 14, wherein said printer is in communication with said communication network.

17. A method of purchasing tickets comprising:

purchasing a ticket from a server of a provider of tickets, using a portable terminal in wireless communication with said server; and

printing said ticket by an authorized printing device which is separate from and in communication with said server, upon a request by said portable terminal.